

G-012/GR-92-22 ORDER APPROVING COMPLIANCE FILINGS

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm
Tom Burton
Cynthia A. Kitlinski
Dee Knaak
Norma McKanna

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of the Request of
Western Gas Utilities, Inc. for
Authority to Increase Its Rates
for Gas Service

ISSUE DATE: January 6, 1993

DOCKET NO. G-012/GR-92-22

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On January 9, 1992, Western Gas Utilities, Inc. (Western or the Company) filed a petition seeking a general rate increase. On February 24, 1992, the Commission issued its ORDER ACCEPTING FILING AND SUSPENDING RATES. On March 6, 1992, the Commission issued its ORDER SETTING INTERIM RATES.

Western and the Department of Public Service (the Department) entered into settlement negotiations regarding the requested rate increase. On October 15, 1992, the Commission issued its ORDER ACCEPTING AND ADOPTING STIPULATION AND OFFER OF SETTLEMENT. In that Order the Commission accepted and adopted the Stipulation and Offer of Settlement entered into by the Department and Western. In the October 15 Order the Commission required, among other things, that Western:

1. File with the Commission for its review and approval, and serve on all parties to the proceeding, revised schedules of rates and charges reflecting the provisions of the Order;
2. File and serve on all parties to the proceeding proposed customer notices explaining the final rates the Company proposes to charge.

On November 13, 1992, Western submitted its compliance filing in response to the Commission's Order. Western supplemented the filing on November 19, 1992.

The Department submitted comments regarding Western's compliance filing on November 30, 1992.

On December 14, 1992, the Company submitted a revised compliance filing.

The matter came before the Commission on December 30, 1992.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Western's supplemented and revised compliance filing is an appropriate response to the concerns and suggestions raised by the Department and Commission staff. The filing makes the following specific corrections:

1. Tariff pages left out of the November 13 filing are supplied;
2. Typographical errors in the rates sections of the tariff pages are corrected;
3. Western's incorrect statement of its flexible rates is amended;
4. Pages in the tariff book are re-ordered to clarify which tariffs and customer classes are covered by the Purchased Gas Adjustment clause;
5. The stipulated language on re-connection fees at Section VI, General Terms and Conditions, Part 2.5, Initiation of Gas Service - Meter Turn on Charge is clarified to indicate when the Company can collect the higher re-connection charge;
6. Customer notices are revised to state rates correctly.

In addition, the Company changed the effective date of the revised tariff from December 16, 1992 to January 16, 1993.

The Commission finds that the Company's compliance filing, as revised and supplemented, reflects the requirements of the Commission's October 15, 1992 ORDER ACCEPTING AND ADOPTING STIPULATION AND OFFER OF SETTLEMENT. The Commission will approve the Company's compliance filing.

ORDER

1. The Commission approves Western's compliance filing submitted on November 13 and 19, 1992, and revised on December 14, 1992, with the tariff to be effective January 16, 1993.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)